



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**SANITARY CONDITION**  
OF  
**WEM RURAL DISTRICT,**  
IN THE COUNTY OF SALOP,  
**DURING THE YEAR, 1938.**

Prepared for the Rural District Council,

BY

**John Dallewy,** L.R.C.P., Lond., M.R.C.S., Eng.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30247238>

# Wem Rural District Council.

---

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1938.

---

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my annual report for the year 1938.

---

Wem Rural District is composed of the Parishes of Wem Rural, Broughton, Clive, Grinshill, Lee Brockhurst, Loppington, Moreton Corbet, Prees, Shawbury, Stanton-upon-Hineheath, Weston and Wixhill, Whixall, Whitchurch Rural, Hadnall.

Area in Acres—60,417.

Population at Census 1931—10,322.

Population estimated Mid. 1937—9,789.

Number of Inhabited Houses 1937—3,000.

Rateable Value, 1st April, 1937—£28,188.

Sum represented by penny rate—£122 15s. 2d.

The District is Agricultural. The following are its chief physical features and general characteristics :—

WEM RURAL—Soil, various ; sub-soil, clay, sand & gravel.

BROUGHTON—Soil is mostly heavy ; sub-soil, stone & rock.

CLIVE—Soil, sandy loam ; sub-soil, marl or red sandstone.

GRINSHILL—Soil, various ; sub-soil, stone, of which there are large quarries.

LEE BROCKHURST—Soil, mixed ; sub-soil, gravel and clay.

LOPPINGTON—Soil is loam, with a gravel sub-soil.

MORETON CORBET—Soil, chiefly sandy loam ; sub-soil, sand and marl.

PREES—Soil composed of bluish clay and shales, with some thin beds of limestone. Beneath the lime is red marl and sandstone, which form all the surrounding country.

SHAWBURY.—Soil, mixed : sub-soil, sand and marl.

STANTON-UPON-HINEHEATH—Soil, sandy loam ; sub-soil, sandstone and marl.

WIXHILL & WESTON—Soil, sandy loam ; sub-soil, red sandstone.

WHIXALL—Soil, mixed ; sub-soil, sand and clay.

WHITCHURCH RURAL—Soil, mixed ; sub-soil, drift, sand and gravel.

HADNALL—Soil, various ; sub-soil, clay and peat.



# Wem Rural District — Causes of Death.

				Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	67	62
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	1	2
Heart Disease	...	...	...	21	23
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	2	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	—
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	2	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	4	4
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	—	1
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	1
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	—	1
Senility	...	...	...	—	2
Suicide	...	...	...	3	—
Other Violence	...	...	...	4	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Births, etc.	...	...	...	3	3
Measles	...	...	...	—	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	1
Influenza	...	...	...	1	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	—	1
Cancer	...	...	...	1	6
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	8	5

Death Rate—12·56 per 1,000.

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

Total	...	...	...	5	5
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate—64·93 per 1,000 births registered.

Live Births	{	Total	...	...	58	96
		Legitimate	...	...	55	90
		Illegitimate	...	...	3	6

Birth Rate—14·94 per 1,000.

Still Births	{	Total	...	...	3	6
		Legitimate	...	...	2	4
		Illegitimate	...	...	1	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—61·35

Legitimate deaths per 1,000 legitimate births—68·98

Illegitimate deaths per 1,000 illegitimate births—

Population—10,270.

## **General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

### **Health Services.**

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District, and a part time officer. The Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor to the Council.

No change has occurred in the services provided in the area for:—Nursing in the Home, Laboratory facilities, Clinics and Treatment Centres, Hospitals.

As regards the Ambulance Services, arrangements have been made with the Whitchurch Urban District Council for the use of their Ambulance for cases other than those of an infectious nature.

### **1. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

#### **(i) Water Supplies.**

The Surveyor reports that the public pumps maintained by the Council for the supplies to villages and small centres were kept in good order.

The pumps at Ash draw from the reservoir of a private supply by arrangement made by the Council with the Trustees. The supply was maintained in good quantity throughout the year. Repairs were effected to a public pump at Ash.

The wells at Broughall and Sandy Bank Council Houses, owing to pollution, were bored to a depth of 39 and 100 feet respectively, and fresh water supply obtained, and the old wells filled in.

Five new bores were put down to supply Water to the Council's New Housing Schemes.

Wells and Pumps were repaired at Spring Hill, Ash and Whixall.

#### **(ii) Sewerage and Drainage.**

The small systems of sewerage and sewerage disposal were maintained throughout the district and kept in good working order. A new 6 inch sewer and surface water drain was laid in Shrewsbury Street, Prees, and I insisted on the County Council trapping all drain openings. Further arrangements were made to lay 64 yards of new sewer to replace an old one at Edgebolton, and this work has been completed.

### **2. Rivers Pollution.**

Pollution of a stream was observed at Fauls owing to insufficient sewerage disposal arrangements at three farms in the district. The matter was taken up and the cleansing of the stream has been improved.

### 3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

Privies and pail closets are in general use for cottages, these are kept under review and defects are brought to the notice of owners and remedied.

(ii) The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the year ending 31st December, 1938, in the Wem Rural Sanitary District :—

Number of Houses which have been inspected during the year in connection with outbreaks of Infectious Disease or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey	...	...	...	420
Number of legal notices sent	...	...	...	—
Number of personal representations sent	...	...	...	104
Number of such notices complied with	...	...	...	24
Number of letters written	...	...	...	295

#### PARTICULARS OF SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN ABOVE NOTICES.

(a) Houses to be cleansed after infectious disease	...	...	...	19
(b) Deficient or objectional water supply	...	...	...	4
(c) New drains to be constructed or old ones to be amended	...	...	...	2
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	...	...	...	5
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	...	...	...	82
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds	...	...	...	10
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	—
(h) Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	21
Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than Phthisis)	...	...	...	19
Houses disinfected in cases of Phthisis	...	...	...	2
Plans for new houses passed	...	...	...	13
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses	...	...	...	12
Repairs to public pumps and wells	...	...	...	7
New public wells and bores	...	...	...	7
Private wells reconstructed or improved	...	...	...	4
Houses connected to public sewerage	...	...	...	2
Lengths of new sewers laid (Prees)	...	...	yds.	250
Lengths of new watermains laid (Prees)	...	...	yds.	150
Proceedings before magistrates	...	...	...	—



### (iii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are two privately owned Swimming Pools open to the public in the District, in each case mechanical filtration is adopted, and sterilization is by chlorine gas.

They are frequently inspected during the summer months.

## 4. Schools.

The Elementary Schools have been inspected frequently and any minor defects brought to the Managers' notice and attended to.

---

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOME WORK.

---

### 1—INSPECTION.

Including Inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances :—

Premises				Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices
Factories	...	...	...	8	4
Workshops	...	...	...	53	6

---

### 2—DEFECTS FOUND.

*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*

Particulars				Number of Found	Defects Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	6	6
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	4	4

---

### NON-TEXTILE FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

Blacksmiths	...	...	...	18
Builders and Wheelwrights	...	...	...	14
Bakehouses	...	...	...	8
Shoemakers	...	...	...	7
Tailors	...	...	...	3
Saddlers	...	...	...	2
Garages	...	...	...	14
Millers	...	...	...	3
Stonemasons	...	...	...	2
Quarries	...	...	...	1
Electrical Stations	...	...	...	2
Engineering	...	...	...	1

---

Total Number on Register 76

J. LAMB, Sanitary Inspector.



## HOUSING STATISTICS.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year ending 31st Dec., 1938.

1	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	352
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...				380
2	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	22
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...				24
3		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	13
4		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation					10

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	...	...	105
--	--	---	-----	-----	-----	-----

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a)	Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act 1936 :—						
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...				
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—					
		(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	
		(b) By local authority in default of owners	...				

(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	6
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—	
	(a) By Owners ...	3
	(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	—
(c)	Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act 1930:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ...	14
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ...	—
(d)	Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act 1930:—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	—

#### 4. Housing Act 1935 :—Overcrowding.

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ...	22
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein ...	22
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	151
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	1
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	—
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	—

The Housing scheme when completed will provide housing accommodation for 22 overcrowded families.

## HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS 1926 & 1931.

The total number of houses improved under these Acts is 21. Seven grants were given under the Act, two other cottages were reconditioned on application and then withdrew application for grant. An application to recondition Five cottages at Prees was approved by the Council, but were refused by the Highway Authority of the County Council, where, in this Village, the need of dwellings is so great, thereby retarding Housing Work in the District.

As regards the condition of cottage property where defects are found in routine inspection the inspector proceeds by personal representation to the owners or by informal notices, with a view to obtaining the necessary repairs and the keeping of the houses in a habitable condition.

Six clearance areas, comprising 15 houses, were dealt with under the Housing Acts. Four other houses were dealt with and under demolition orders in which a scheme was submitted and approved for carrying out alterations and repairs.

A scheme is now progressing for the building of 36 new houses suitable for members of the Agricultural Population.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops during the year.

Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on Register	...	...	507
Number of Premises—Cowsheds	...	...	643
Number of Inspections	...	...	150
Defects found in Cowsheds—Drainage	...	...	20
„ „ „ Cleanliness	...	...	9
„ „ „ Lighting and Ventilation	...	...	80
„ „ „ Floors	...	...	20
Total number complying with the prescribed conditions for certified milk	...	...	90

J. LAMB, Sanitary Inspector.



## Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the District Council free of cost, to cases of the poorer classes.

The Council provide facilities for immunization against Diphtheria, free of charge, to inhabitants in the District, under 16 years of age, unable themselves to make the necessary arrangements, and who might desire to take advantage of the safeguard.

No patients were treated during the year under the scheme. There were no cases of Diphtheria amongst the persons treated.

---

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	13	7	—
Diphtheria	10	9	3
Pneumonia	9	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	2	2

---

### TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female		Male	Female
Ages	37	16	Ages	5	7
„	29	—	„	36	25

### DEATHS.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female		Male	Female
Ages	—	48		—	7



# WEM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,  
from 15th April, 1938 to 15th April, 1939.

---

Mr. M. J. Adams (Chairman)

Mr. E. Leech (Vice-Chairman)

*Wem Rural,*

Mr. H. G. P. Maddocks

Mr. P. Swain

Mr. F. L. Tomlinson

*Broughton and Clive,*

Mr. R. Cank

*Grinshill,*

Mr. R. J. Smith

*Hadnall,*

Mr. E. Leech

*Lee Brockhurst,*

Mr. F. A. Embrey

*Loppington,*

Col. T. Dickin

*Moreton Corbet,*

Mr. F. A. Embrey

*Prees,*

Mr. E. Cooper

Mr. T. Hockenhull

Mr. M. J. Adams

*Shawbury,*

Mr. R. Evans

Mr. J. W. Evans

*Stanton-upon-Hineheath,*

Mr. S. Leighton

*Weston and Wixhill-under-Redcastle,*

Mr. W. Owen

*Whixall,*

Mr. R. C. Evans

Mr. T. Lea

*Whitchurch Rural,*

Major R. Lambert

Mr. E. C. Pointon

Dr. H. G. W. Beckett





